



HR0744

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Women comprise more than half of the population of
3 the United States of America and are solely responsible for
4 childbearing; and

5 WHEREAS, Women who plan their pregnancies are more likely
6 to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the
7 health of their children; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States of America ranks 30th in the
9 world in its rate of maternal mortality and has one of the
10 highest rates of maternal mortality among all developed
11 nations; and

12 WHEREAS, Family planning services improve health care
13 outcomes and wellness for women and families, access to family
14 planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant
15 mortality rates, and women who do not receive prenatal care are
16 three to four times more likely to die after a live birth than
17 are women who have received even minimal prenatal care; and

18 WHEREAS, Contraception enables women to better prevent
19 unintended pregnancies and plan for pregnancy when they do want
20 to have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive services and
21 supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies

1 each year in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Nearly half of all unintended pregnancies end in
3 abortion and abortion rates in the United States of America
4 increase during times when contraception is less accessible to
5 low income women; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States of America has one of the
7 highest rates of unintended pregnancy among the world's
8 developed nations, half of all the pregnancies in the United
9 States are unintended, and half of unintended pregnancies occur
10 in women who are not using contraceptives; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to the primary purpose of allowing
12 women to plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits
13 of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and
14 ovarian cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia
15 related to heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts,
16 and pelvic inflammatory disease; and

17 WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic health disparities are
18 particularly pronounced in reproductive health, including
19 disparities in rates of contraception usage, unintended
20 pregnancies, maternal mortality, and sexually transmitted
21 infections, and these disparities reveal significant barriers
22 to access to sexual health care (including contraception),

1 medical care, and medically accurate sexuality education; and

2 WHEREAS, A majority of American voters believe that matters
3 related to women's reproductive rights, including
4 contraception and abortion, are personal issues that should be
5 decided by women with their families, health care providers,
6 and clergy members; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 the week of January 22-28, 2012 be recognized as Reproductive
10 Rights Awareness Week in the State of Illinois, to encourage
11 public awareness, conversation, and support for reproductive
12 rights and justice nationwide.